

Application No. 09/842,370
Filed: April 25, 2001
TC Art Unit: 2172
Confirmation No.: 6576

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request that the above Preliminary Amendment to the claims be entered prior to continued examination, and that the filing fee be calculated based on this amendment to the claims.

The status of the claims is as follows. Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-21, 24-28, and 30-33 have been preliminarily amended.

The Applicants believe that all present claims patentably distinguish over the art of record. Accordingly, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of

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the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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